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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Arenberg, et al.

Title: CONTROLLED RELEASE SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING
THERAPEUTIC AGENTS INTO THE INNER EAR

Serial No.: 09/205,251
Examiner: Thanh, Loan H.

Filing Date: 12/04/98
Group Art Unit: 3763

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
ACCOMPANYING RCE**

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated Dec. 20, 2002. A two month extension of time is requested and petitioned for under 37 CFR 1.136, making a response due by May 20, 2003.

Applicant's Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the application is appended to this paper. Applicants request that in view of the following amendments and remarks, the application be reconsidered.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending before entry of this amendment.

Claims 7-19 are withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 10-25 are rejected.

Please cancel the pending claims 2-25, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 1, as below.

Please add new claims 26 - 48, as below.